

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 39-60 remain in this application. Claims 9-38 have been canceled without prejudice. In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present claims 9-38 in a divisional application. The Applicants affirm the provisional election of February 21, 2003.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,050,895 to Luciano, Jr. et al ("Luciano"). Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended as described below, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the provision of game time allotted to a player for playing a game and further to describe that game time is altered in response to results of chance-based games. Such provision of game time is believed to be advantageous to players who appreciate knowing the expected value of their game time and to players who may wish to have determined times to play games which may be new or games that may be unfamiliar to players. Luciano is generally directed to a hybrid gaming apparatus and does not disclose or suggest the allocation of specified game time based on game outcomes. Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and action toward that end is earnestly solicited.

Dependent claims 2-5 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate a provision of a specified game time and to further incorporate the feature of game time being altered based on outcomes of chance-based or skill-based games. Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1 and action toward that end is earnestly solicited.

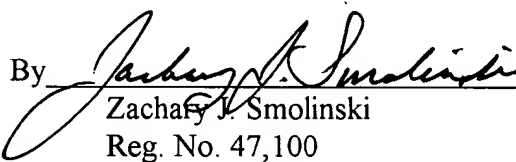
Dependent claims 7 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from claim 6, which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 39-59 have been newly added. Claims 39-45 depend either directly or through intervening claims from claim 1 and more particularly point out management of game time

according to the present invention. Claims 46-48 depend from claim 6 and more particularly point out increasing and reducing game time. Claim 49 is a new independent claim directed to the alteration of game time based on outcomes from at least one of a skill-based video game and a chance-based video game. Claims 50-60 depend either directly or through intervening claims from claim 49 and are generally directed to management of game time.

A check is enclosed for \$410.00 to cover the fee for a two-month extension of time for response to the Office Action. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees required (except for payment of the issue fee) from or to credit any overpayment to Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47089-00051.

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